

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 remain in the application with claims 1 and 6 having been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Niwa et al. in view of Nielson, and further in view of Holtman et al. and further in view of Bensoussan et al.

As explained in the present specification, the present invention provides an information retrieval apparatus in which the database is at least first and second dictionaries in different languages. In accessing the database, a display is provided that includes an information bar that consists of a plurality of lengthwise sections each corresponding to index-item information and being displayed in a staircase pattern. The length of each lengthwise section of the information bar corresponds to a quantity of the index-item information being displayed. Furthermore, the length of the information bar is determined by the number of displayable dots and the number of information in each information bar.

The claims have been amended hereby to emphasize the above-noted features of the present invention.

Niwa et al. discloses a document retrieval assistance method that employs feedback to assist the user in retrieving the desired

document from a large database.

Nielson discloses a plurality of dictionaries, shown for example in Fig. 3, having various words either approved, misspelled, or to be added.

Holtman et al. is cited for allegedly showing an information bar consisting of a plurality of lengthwise sections and being displayed in a staircase pattern.

Bensoussan et al. relates to a system and method for instant consolidation of a multi-dimensional database and is cited for a showing of a length of lengthwise sections corresponding to a quantity of information therein.

In regard to Holtman et al., it is respectfully submitted that Holtman et al. does not disclose an information bar consisting of a plurality of lengthwise sections displayed in the staircase pattern. Holtman et al. relates to a clustering technique for high energy physics data and does not disclose a staircase pattern, as recited in the present claims.

Moreover, none of the cited references show or suggest the provision of the length of the information bar being determined by the number of displayable dots and the number of information in each information bar, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims.

The major index item and bars in the display unit being based

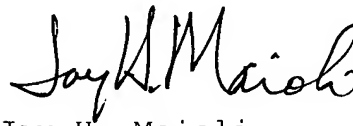
on the assignment of dots to each major index item is described in the present specification in the first full paragraph of page 9 and is shown in Fig. 4, for example.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that an information retrieval apparatus and method, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited references alone or in combination.

Entry of this amendment is earnestly solicited and it is respectfully submitted that this amendment raises no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search because the important elements of this invention have all always been set forth in the claims and examined accordingly.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jay H. Maioli".

Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27, 213

JHM:tb